

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 INT-05 HA-05 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MCT-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /112 W

-----066468 281751Z /42

R 271433Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBSSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6653

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION SUUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA - INTERNAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

1. NAMIBIAN INTERNAL POLITICS CONTINUE TO SIMMER.

THE FOLLOWING INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION OVER THE PAST WEEK:

(A) SWAPO CONTINUES TO HOLD SMALL PUBLIC MEETINGS AT THE BRANCH LEVEL VIRTUALLY EVERY WEEKEND IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN NAMIBIA. IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DIRECTIVE FROM ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL SYTEYN, SWAPO ORGANIZERS WERE EVEN ALLOWED TO VISIT DIAMOND MINES IN THE RESTRICTED COASTAL MINING AREA AND HOLD MEETINGS WITH THE MIGRANT LABORERS WHO WORK THE MINES. AN OFFICIAL AT SWAPO OFFICE IN WINDHOEK TOLD US THAT NO FURTHER MEETINGS IN OVAMBO ARE PRESENTLY PLANNED, BUT THAT PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY IN THE NORTHERN CAPRIVI AND KAVANGO HOMELANDS. JUDGE STEYN

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HAS REPORTEDLY REQUESTED THE POLICE TO PROTECT SWAPO MEETINGS IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY WOULD ANY OTHER POLITICAL GATHERINGS.

(B) JUDGE STEYN IS REPORTEDLY IN THE PROCESS OF TAKING OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND POLICE IN NAMIBIA, AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO THIS EFFECT IS EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE IS ALSO SAID TO BE STUDYING

SECTION VI OF THE TERRORISM ACT WITH A VIEW TOWARD
ITS POSSIBLE MODIFICATION.

(C) THE NATIONAL PARTY OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA IS ACTIVELY
ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN ITS STRENGTH IN THE TERRITORY.
SOME OBSERVERS SAY THATS ITS POPULARITY AMONG WHITE
VOTERS IS HIGHER THAN THAT OF DIRK MUDGE'S REPUBLICAN
PARTY. IN WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED AN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO
GENERATE SUPPORT AMONG NON-WHITES, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE (WHITE) LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, WHICH IS STILL
CONTROLLED BY THE NP, LAST WEEK APPROVED THE EXPENDITURE
R17.3 MILLION (ABOUT \$20 MILLION), AN UNPRECEDENTED
AMOUNT, FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE BLACK HOMELANDS.
SPECULATION IS ALSO RIFE THAT FORMER EXILE M. KERINA
IS LIKELY TO LEAD HIS NEW SPLINTER GROUPING (PRETORIA 0213)
INTO AN ELECTION ALLIANCE WITH THE NP.

(D) THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE HAS BEGUN THE
MOVE TO ITS NEW PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IN
DOWNTOWN WINDHOEK, AND NOW OCCUPIES THE TOP TWO
FLOORS OF THE BUILDING.

(E) THE PUBLICATION "TORTURE--A CANCER IN OUR SOCIETY"
(REPORTED CAPE TOWN 072) HAS BEEN BANNED.

BOWDLER

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